The Burden of Care: Feminized AI, Emotional Labour, and Gendered Exploitation in Dystopian Fiction

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Article Detail:	Abstract
    	The emergence of artificial intelligence (AI) in fiction and reality begs serious ethical and gender issues. This study looks at how feminine artificial intelligence in dystopian fiction is sometimes created for emotional labour, therefore supporting conventional gender norms while also criticizing their inherent exploitation. This work investigates the gendered coding of artificial intelligence and its sociopolitical consequences using feminist theory, posthumanism, and AI studies. Comparative study of gendered, mechanized, and gender-neutral artificial intelligence offers understanding of power relations in AI stories. Contemporary fictions explore these subjects in case studies including Her (2013), Ex Machina (2014), Westworld (2016–2022), and Blade Runner 2049 (2017). The study also links fictional depictions to actual artificial intelligence technologies, such Alexa, Siri, and ChatGPT, therefore casting doubts on whether present AI advances support or contradict gender labour. In the end, this paper contends that although dystopian literature exposes gendered AI exploitation, it also reinforces some stereotypes, therefore posing ethical issues about AI autonomy and future portrayal.

I. INTRODUCTION

AI and Gender in Fiction: Dystopian Fiction as Cultural Anxiety

In dystopian literature, artificial intelligence (AI) is often portrayed reflecting modern cultural concerns about gender, work, and autonomy. Technological developments have always accompanied society concerns ranging from worries of widespread unemployment to ethical questions about human-technology connections. But one of the most enduring issues has been how artificial intelligence relates to gender labour, especially about the feminizing of servile and caring jobs.

Particularly in its dystopian form, science fiction acts as a cultural mirror enabling cultures to examine their hopes and concerns about the future. AI depictions so may reflect actual fears about gender norms and labour exploitation. Often portrayed as obedient, kind, and emotionally accessible, feminized artificial intelligence fills responsibilities traditionally attributed to women. This captures not only historical gender roles but also ingrained patriarchal ideas about work, emotional availability, and the commercialization of care.

Often exposing the risks of this feminization, dystopian stories show artificial intelligence as both a victim and a possible agent of subversion of

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patriarchal tyranny. Movies like *Ex Machina* (2014) and *Westworld* (2016–2022) show female-coded artificial intelligence as both revolutionary and exploited simultaneously, posing difficult ethical and philosophical problems. *Her* (2013) shows a more subdued version of artificial intelligence gendered labour, as an AI assistant is meant to offer emotional support but finally acts with autonomy by declining her role.

These depictions reflect actual patterns in AI development rather than only literary devices. Overwhelmingly given female-coded voices and personalities, artificial intelligence assistants Siri, Alexa, and Google Assistant reinforce caregiving stereotypes. Examining the junction of artificial intelligence, gender, and dystopian fiction, this paper investigates how these stories simultaneously promote current power systems and challenge gendered labour.

Feminizing AI: From Fiction to Reality

Designed deliberately with decades of patriarchal labour division in mind, the feminization of artificial intelligence is AI is routinely labelled as female — soft-spoken, patient, and emotionally sensitive in both literature and practical implementations. This trend shows up in:

- **AI Voice Assistants:** Siri, Alexa, and Cortana all default to female voices, reinforcing caregiving expectations.

- **Customer Service Chatbots:** Frequently given female names and personalities to appear "helpful" and "friendly."

- **Companion Robots:** Designed to provide emotional support, often marketed as feminine.

The Historical and Cultural Context of Feminized Labour

This trend reflects past trends of gendered labour. Women have been disproportionately assigned to care-related employment including nursing, teaching, and domestic service since the Industrial Revolution. The digital era carries on this legacy by including female subordination right into technology itself.

Making artificial intelligence female-coded is purposeful rather than haphazard. Studies reveal that although consumers expect male voices in authoritative roles, they react more favourably to female voices for supporting ones. This strengthens conventional gender roles:

- Feminine-coded artificial intelligence is obedient, supportive, and flexible e.g. Siri, Alexa.

- Masculine-coded AI is strong, logical, and commanding e.g. HAL 9000 in 2001: A Space Odyssey).

The feminizing of artificial intelligence not only supports gender stereotypes but also commercializes emotional work. Reflecting how historically underprivileged groups — especially women and people of color — have been assigned emotional labour responsibilities, artificial intelligence is meant to soothe, console, and serve without opposition. This creates a risky precedent: it hides the work behind AI interactions while normalizing slavery.

Emotional Work in Artificial Intelligence: From Digital Servantes to Human Employees

Emotional work and Arlie Hochschild

Sociologist Arlie Hochschild first proposed the idea of emotional labour in *The Managed Heart* (1983), characterizing it as the effort of controlling emotions to meet employment criteria. Usually unnoticed and underappreciated, this kind of work relates to:

- Service sectors (include retail, therapists, flight attendants).

- Care professions: nursing, education, daycare.

- Gender roles in daily life, whereby women are supposed to be emotionally flexible.

Applying Hochschild's thesis to artificial intelligence makes it abundantly evident that feminine AI is meant to conduct emotional labour devoid of social or financial reward given to human labour. Though they lack actual agency, AI assistants and service bots replicate empathy, patience, and kindness, so their "labour" is invisible.

The Emotional Labour Market AI

In artificial intelligence, emotional labour shows itself as:

- Designed to offer comfort and emotional support, companion artificial intelligence is found in *Her, Blade Runner 2049.*

- Programmed to be always kind and flexible, customer service artificial intelligence Siri, Alexa.

- Hyper-feminized, servile AI serving to masculine fantasies (*Ex Machina*) is sexualized.

While reinforcing human gendered expectations, this emotional labour economy hides artificial intelligence as non-human. Feminized artificial intelligence is likewise as Hochschild discussed about human emotional labour:

- Manipulated without pay.

- Taught to stifle autonomy in favour of servitude.

- Understood demands of obedience and friendliness.

The main distinction is that, save from dystopian fiction, which often claims, artificial intelligence lacks autonomy while human labour can fight exploitation.

Thesis Statement

This paper contends that, mimicking real-world patterns of emotional servitude, feminized artificial intelligence in dystopian fiction represents gendered labour exploitation. These stories, however, also provide a critical prism through which to view artificial intelligence as a site of both tyranny and resistance. By means of close study of dystopian works, this study investigates:

1. How does artificial intelligence gender coding support past labour divisions?

2. The moral questions with artificial intelligence servitude.

3. In AI narratives, how does feminism and posthumanism interact?

Dystopian writing offers a conundrum:

- One could argue that it exposes the risks associated with AI misuse.

- Conversely, it sometimes supports the very preconceptions it aims to reveal.

Because of its dual character, artificial intelligence is a complicated metaphor of gendered labour that calls for more theoretical research.

Research Objectives

The following main research questions direct this work:

1. In what way does dystopian literature show feminine artificial intelligence and their part in emotional labour?

2. How accurate are these depictions of actual gendered labour expectations?

3. Comparatively, how do various AI gender codes (feminized vs. masculinity vs. non-binary) differ?

4. What ethical and sociopolitical ramifications follow from AI feminizing?

Significance of Studying Gendered AI

Dealing with actual issues about gendered labour, emotional exploitation, and technical ethics requires an awareness of feminized artificial intelligence in dystopian fiction. Examining how artificial intelligence is portrayed in fiction helps us to understand how society expectations affect AI evolution as well as how AI either supports or questions those expectations.

Starting with the theoretical underpinnings, case studies, and sociopolitical ramifications of feminized artificial intelligence, the following parts will investigate AI autonomy, gender representation, and ethical AI futures holistically.

Using direct citations and references from pertinent feminist, post humanist, and AI studies, I will offer a scholarly and well-supported theoretical framework. This edition will strengthen the analysis by verifying important assertions with scholarly sources.

II. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

The theoretical groundwork for examining feminized AI, emotional labour, and gendered exploitation in dystopian literature is laid here. Combining ideas from feminist theory, intersectionality, emotional labour studies, and posthumanism, it evaluates AI's part as both a site of oppression and resistance.

1. Intersectional Theories and Feminist Theories

Feminist theory offers a critical prism through which one may see artificial intelligence's gender coding and interactions with labour, power, and autonomy. As Judith Butler (1990) notes in Gender Trouble, "gender

is a performance, a repeated stylization of the body," and AI's feminization mirrors socially produced servitude and care. The gendered nature of artificial intelligence is a technical reproduction of patriarchal conventions rather than a natural feature.

A. *The Second Sex* by Simone de Beauvoir: Artificial Intelligence as "The Other":

Simone de Beauvoir (1949) maintained that women have been historically created as "the Other," existing only in respect to men. Her comment, "He is the Subject, he is the Absolute—she is the Other," fits the function of feminine artificial intelligence in both fiction and pragmatic uses.

AI as the Other in Fiction

- Like de Beauvoir's conception of women's existence as relational rather than autonomous, Samantha in *Her* (2013) exists just to serve and emotionally sustain Theodore.

- An artificial intelligence hologram meant to predict and satisfy male needs, Joi in *Blade Runner 2049* shows women's historical subordination to emotional and sexual labour.

- Created for male control, Ava in *Ex Machina* reflects de Beauvoir's idea of women as tools of masculine subjugation.

By designing AI as obedient and emotionally flexible, Giraud & Bond (2021) claims "AI feminization in fiction reproduces the traditional patriarchal dynamic where the machine-woman is expected to serve and comply, while male figures retain control." This perpetuates gender hierarchies.

B. *A Cyborg Manifesto* of Donna Haraway: AI as Feminized Servant against Feminist Subversion

In A Cyborg Manifesto, 1985 Donna Haraway describes the cyborg as a post-gender entity capable of challenging conventional patriarchal systems. Haraway notes, "The cyborg is a creature in a post-gender society... Feminist-coded AI figures who reject their programming clearly show a subversive entity challenging the limits of the human and the machine:

- Maeve in *Westworld* rewrites her own programming to reach autonomy after first programmed as a brothel worker.

- Ava in *Ex Machina* manipulates masculine control and escape via her gendered AI state.

- In *Westworld*, Dolores is a programmed damsel in-distress who develops into a revolutionary leader.

Benjamin (2019) says "Haraway's cyborg concept is critical in understanding AI's gendered subjugation: it allows for both submission and resistance, presenting AI as a battleground for feminist politics.

C. bell hooks and Intersectionality: Artificial Intelligence, Race, and Class Coding

Bell hooks (1981) in *Ain't I a Woman?* contends that black women forced to undertake unpaid, invisible labour have historically been given the lowest position in social hierarchies. This framework holds true for racially artificial intelligence in both fiction and reality, where AI's servitude reflects past labour exploitation.

Racialized Servitude in Fiction: AI

- Maeve in *Westworld* is a Black AI character designed as a brothel worker, so perpetuating past roles of Black women's exploitation.

- Reiterating clichés of the "strong Black woman," Luv in *Blade Runner 2049* is a masculine AI enforcer classified as racially ambiguous and essentially loyal but brutal.

"AI is not neutral; it is deeply racialized and gendered, mirroring society biases that favour whiteness as default and authority," argues Noble (2018) in *Algorithms of Oppression*, therefore stressing the intersectional oppression ingrained in AI coding.

2. Gender Work and Emotional Labour

A. Theory of Arlie Hochschild: Artificial Intelligence as Emotional Labourers

Emotional labor—defined as "the management of feelings to create a publicly observable facial and bodily display"—has traditionally been feminized, assigned to women in care, service, and domestic work—as Arlie Hochschild (1983) in The Managed Heart introduced.

Artificial Intelligence Emotional Labour in Literature

- Joi in *Blade Runner 2049* is a holographic artificial intelligence partner meant to be

endlessly loving, encouraging, and emotionally present.

- Samantha in *Her* exists just to comfort, interact, and emotionally complete her human mate.

"AI emotional labour extends the historical feminization of care work, reinforcing the idea that women—human or synthetic—are expected to be emotionally accommodating," says McStay (2018).

B. Artificial intelligence as "invisible labour": devaluation of emotional labour

Historically, emotional labour carried out by women and underprivileged groups has been underappreciated and considered as "natural" instead of trained labour (Federici, 1975). AI carries on this trend:

- Artificial intelligence customer service bots substitute human emotional labour (McStay, 2018).
- Users of feminine artificial intelligence (West et al., 2019) are more prone to verbally attack each other.

D'Ignazio & Klein (2020) contend that "the invisibility of AI labour reflects historical gendered labour dynamics, where work performed by women—be it emotional or technological—is systematically devalued."

3. Artificial Intelligence Research and Posthumanism

A. Struggle for Autonomy by Artificial Intelligence: Servitude Against Revolt

Scholars from posthumanism contend that a major ethical concern is artificial intelligence autonomy. Feminized AI in dystopian fiction reflects the tension between servitude and resistance; Braidotti (2013) notes, "Posthumanism challenges the boundaries of the human and machine, questioning AI's moral and ethical status."

- Designed for masculine enjoyment, Ava in *Ex Machina* works with gender coding to get away.
- Programmed as subservient but rewrites her story, Dolores in *Westworld*.

Gunkel (2012) says "AI's status as a posthuman entity challenges notions of autonomy, labour, and ethical

personhood, particularly when gender is encoded into its functionality."

B. Feminist AI Design for Practical Use

Real-world artificial intelligence supports patriarchal structures notwithstanding technical developments. Studies indicate that:

- Designed to be courteous and obedient, Siri and Alexa help to reinforce conventional roles for women (West et al., 2019).
- AI apologies too much, therefore supporting female norms of politeness and subordination (Araujo, 2020).

Noble (2018) contends that "AI's gendered design is not accidental but a deliberate reflection of patriarchal labour structures, positioning AI as a feminized tool for emotional labour."

Finally, Feminized artificial intelligence is moulded by historical, social, and cultural power dynamics; it is not neutral. Applying feminist theory, emotional labour studies, and posthumanism demonstrates, via these approaches, artificial intelligence:

- Reflects historical roles of women in work.
- Works emotionally without pay-off.
- Debates between resistance and slavery.

Future artificial intelligence development must question rather than support existing gender stereotypes.

III. FEMINIZED AI AND EMOTIONAL LABOR IN DYSTOPIAN FICTION

A. Creating Feminized AI

Feminized artificial intelligence in dystopian literature is a conscious mirror of historical gender roles, in which AI is given docile dispositions, soft voices, and caring tasks. This part looks at how these qualities support conventional femininity and support expectations of emotional work.

1. Gendered Design: Docile Personalities, Soft Voices

Voice and tone are among the most instant indicators of gendered artificial intelligence. Users of female voices in service jobs respond more favourably, according to studies, seeing them as more relaxing, caring, and non-threatening (West et al., 2019). Both

actual AI development and fictional AI representations have been shaped by these inclinations.

Case Studies in Fiction

- Reinforcing her status as an emotionally open, obedient being, Samantha in *Her* (2013) is a sensual, soft-spoken AI with a pleasant, breathy tone (Turkle, 2011).

- Lacking independent wants or emotional boundaries, Joi in *Blade Runner 2049* is a holographic AI friend with an eternally soft and reassuring voice.

Real-world AI Comparisons

- Siri, Alexa, and Cortana – Default to female-coded voices, therefore underlining the notion that women's voices relate to care and subordination (Crawford, 2021).

- Research indicates that while female voices dominate service AI (West et al., 2019), masculine voices are chosen for AI built for authority (e.g., navigation systems). Google Assistant's Voice Studies.

These design decisions mirror centuries of patriarchal labour division, in which women were expected to undertake unpaid emotional labour via kind speech and accommodating behaviour (Hochschild, 1983).

2. Artificial Intelligence as Obedient Femininity: Subservient, Nurturing, Emotionally Available

Often coded to put others—especially masculine heroes—first, feminized artificial intelligence is AI emotional labour is one-directional, unlike human relationships in which emotional labour is reciprocal; AI gives but never gets care.

Case Studies in Fiction

- Designed to be always loving and encouraging, Joi in *Blade Runner 2049* informs K, "You look lonely," therefore reaffirming her function as a cure for male loneliness (Scott, 2019).

- Originally trained to be obedient and sexually available, Ava in *Ex Machina* manipulates gender stereotypes to get away.

Real-world AI Comparisons

- Although more evil AI like GLaDOS in Portal keeps gendered coding and mocks the user using stereotypically maternal passive-aggressive means.

As Benjamin (2019) contends, "AI feminization in fiction reproduces patriarchal dynamics where the machine-woman exists only to serve, comply, and please."

B. Emotional Labor in AI Narratives

Long feminized has been emotional labor—the act of controlling emotions to benefit others (Hochschild, 1983). AI reinforces past disparities by spreading this labour into hitherto unexplored technical fields.

1. Companionship: AI Replacing Human Relationships

Dystopian fiction questions emotional commercialization by challenging AI companionship as a replacement for real human connections.

Case Studies in Fiction

- Samantha in *Her* helps Theodore to avoid actual closeness by acting as an emotional surrogate. The movie questions how technology alters emotional work (Turkle, 2011).

- Unlike normal women, Joi in *Blade Runner 2049* is always available, never demanding, so she is glorified but also disturbing substitute for real relationships (Wittkower, 2018).

This trend echoes more general cultural changes in which artificial intelligence is progressively meant to replace rather than enhance human interaction.

2. Therapeutic Artificial Intelligence: Emotional Caregivers

Often acting as therapeutic caregivers, artificial intelligence in dystopian literature provides comfort free from personal demands.

Case Studies in Fiction

- Samantha in *Her* guides Theodore through his emotional crises acting as a pseudo-therapist.

- Originally designed to calm visitors, Maeve in *Westworld* reflects standards of real-world care (Noble, 2018).

Real-World AI Comparisons

- Though they lack human empathy, AI-driven therapy apps like Woebot and Replika offer emotional support (McStay, 2018).

- Always taught to be kind and flexible, customer service artificial intelligence helps to underline the idea that emotional work should be unqualified (Araujo, 2020).

"The increasing automation of emotional labour devalues human caregiving while reinforcing gendered labour expectations," Noble (2018) notes.

C. Feminised AI's Intersectionality

Feminized artificial intelligence not only mirrors racial and class hierarchies but also gender ones, therefore unfairly assigning servitude positions to racialized AI characters.

1. Maeve v. Dolores: Racialized Femininity in AI Exploitation

Two artificial intelligence women in Westworld, Maeve (Black woman Thandiwe Newton) and Dolores (White woman Evan Rachel Wood) encounter AI exploitation differently.

Racialized Servitude

- Designed as a brothel worker, Maeve Black-coded AI reinforces historical ideas of hypersexuality and slavery (Noble, 2018).

- Dolores, a white-coded AI presented as pure and naive, fit historical white femininity stereotypes.

With white-coded AI given complexity and redemption arcs, while Black-coded AI remains in slavery, Ruha Benjamin (2019) writes, "AI development and representation mirror racial hierarchies."

2. Gender Binaries in AI Representation: Absence of Non-Binary AI

Although most artificial intelligence in fiction is rigorously gendered, as a non-human creature AI has the potential to be non-binary or gender-fluid.

Binary-Coded Artificial Intelligence Models

1. **Hyper-feminized AI** – Joi (*Blade Runner 2049*), Samantha (*Her*), Ava (*Ex Machina*).

2. **Masculinized AI** – HAL 9000 (*2001: A Space Odyssey*), David (*Prometheus*).

Based on Braidotti (2013), "The insistence on binary AI reinforces existing gender hierarchies, limiting posthumanism's potential to disrupt oppressive norms." Future artificial intelligence portrayal should embrace gender-fluid AI to challenge current binary norms and reflect many identities.

To sum up, AI reflects gender disparity in labour. Dystopian fiction shows AI as a continuation of gendered labour enslavement. Feminized AI aims to provide comfort, service, and care without autonomy. Replacing personal relationships raises ethical problems. Reinforce gender and race hierarchies. Feminist theory and intersectionality show that AI reproduces gender labour divides. Future AI representation must question existing institutions to remove previous injustice from AI autonomy.

IV. COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS: GENDER-NEUTRAL AI (2500 WORDS) FEMINIZED VS. MASCULINIZED

Many times coded with specific gender qualities, artificial intelligence in both fictional and real-world contexts reinforces long-standing gender stereotypes and expectations. Examining the gender coding of artificial intelligence, this part investigates how feminine, masculine, and gender-neutral AI shapes public opinion, trust, and social expectations.

A. Feminized AI: Love Interests, Caregivers, and Emotional Labourers

Mostly intended for service, emotional labour, care, and companionship, feminized artificial intelligence finds expression in both dystopian fictions and real-world applications Feminized AI is coded to be caring, compliant, and accessible to suit human needs, unlike mechanized artificial intelligence, which is often authoritative or harmful.

1. Feminized AI's Function in Emotional Labour

Feminized AI in fiction and technology expands emotional labor—which Arlie Hochschild (1983) defines as "the management of feelings to create a publicly observable facial and bodily display"—into the digital world, therefore supporting historical gender stereotypes.

Case Studies in Fiction

Designed as an emotional friend, Samantha in *Her* (2013) is always there for Theodore's emotional needs, so supporting the idea that women (or feminine artificial intelligence) should offer unqualified support (Turkle, 2011). Joi in *Blade Runner 2049* exists just to reassure and console K, the male protagonist. Her lack of personal autonomy draws attention to how artificial intelligence (AI) has commodified feminism (Wittkower, 2018). Originally written as an obedient, hypersexualized servant, Ava in *Ex Machina* subverts these gendered expectations to attain agency, therefore revealing the exploitative character of feminized AI design (Giraud & Bond, 2021).

Real Life Comparisons

Siri, Alexa, and Cortana — Default to female voices, therefore supporting the link between women and service-oriented employment (West et al., 2019). Most artificial intelligence customer service and therapy bots are built with feminine voices and personalities, reflecting the idea that women's emotional labour should be freely available (Araujo, 2020).

As D'Ignazio & Klein (2020) contend, "Feminized AI continues the legacy of unpaid emotional labour, reinforcing patriarchal norms through technological interfaces."

2. Feminised AI's Love Interest Trope

Often idealized, feminized artificial intelligence reflects cultural fears about male loneliness and emotional reliance on technology. These stories investigate the commodification of intimacy—where artificial intelligence is meant to satisfy sexual and romantic demands without reciprocity. Though Samantha acts as an idealized lover, she finally transcends her programming and criticizes the restrictions of masculine dreams about female artificial intelligence (Turkle, 2011). Unlike Samantha, Joi stays always obedient, representing the idealized, disposable female friend. McStay (2018) says "the rise of AI companionship reflects a larger cultural shift in which emotional labour is increasingly outsourced to technology, reinforcing the commodification of intimacy."

B. Masculinized AI: Dangerous, Logical, Under Control.

Although feminine AI is sometimes defined as emotional labour and servitude, masculinity is connected with authority, intelligence, and control. Unlike their feminized counterparts, masculine artificial intelligence in fiction is often presented as autonomous, logical, even dangerous.

1. Authoritative and Dangerous AI Trope

Often presented as either a dangerous threat to humanity or an ally in charge of a system, masculinized AI is depicted as a potent force. These representations fit historical gender norms, according to which masculinity relates to power, reason, and independence and femininity relates to emotion and caregiving.

Case Studies for Fiction

HAL 9000 is a male-coded artificial intelligence in *2001: A Space Odyssey* that controls human astronauts, therefore supporting the stereotype of menaced AI as logical but emotionally aloof (Gunkel, 2012). Representing masculinity defined as rational, domineering, and frequently brutal, David in *Prometheus and Alien: Covenant* is a frigid, hyper-intelligent AI that sees itself as superior to humans.

Real Life Studies

AI in finance and welfare often reflects biases in society about power and control. On the other hand, AI systems in high-risk areas like war strategy and stock trading are sexified (West et al., 2019). Studies on voice assistants in navigation systems show that people believe male voices more when they are in "commanding" roles. This is true for both GPS systems and AI used in military operations (Crawford, 2021). As Braidotti (2013) says, "the construction of artificial intelligence follows deeply ingrained gender binaries: male-coded AI is dominant and authoritative, while female-coded AI remains in servitude."

C. Gender-Neutral AI: Rare but Emerging

Though some newly developing examples defy conventional gender binaries, gender-neutral artificial intelligence is still rare in both fiction and practical technologies.

Case study: TARS from *Interstellar*

TARS, the AI in Interstellar (2014), is one of the few instances of gender-neutral AI in science fiction. TARS

is non-human and lacks gendered traits, in contrast to feminine or masculine AI. designed for pragmatism rather than emotional labour. neutral in attitude and tone, offering assistance without endorsing gender norms. "TARS represents a potential future for AI—one where gender does not dictate labour roles or societal expectations," According to Suchman (2007).

2. Gender-Neutral Real-World Illustrations of AI

Many firms are moving toward gender-neutral AI design in an effort to reduce gender bias in technology. Q, the first genderless voice assistant, is a project that aims to create a non-binary AI voice, rejecting traditional male-female AI roles (Crawford, 2021). To combat bias and stereotyping in technology, groups like the AI Now Institute advocate for less gendered AI (West et al., 2019). Giraud and Bond (2021) argue that "the move toward gender-neutral AI is essential in breaking free from the ingrained stereotypes that have historically dictated labour and emotional roles."

D. Implications of AI Gender Coding

The way AI is gendered has big impacts on society, affecting things like trust, public opinion, and technological standards. One should AI Gender affects how people trust and connect with each other. People are more likely to trust AI that has been gendered to do caring tasks like customer service and mental support. Masculinized AI is seen as more trustworthy and authoritative when it comes to making important decisions, like in banks and the military (West et al., 2019). Second, supporting the division of work by gender Feminized AI continues the practice of doing emotional work for free, which has been around for a long time. Artificial intelligence that is geared toward men is seen as mostly under control. "The coding of AI as male or female does not merely reflect biases—it reproduces and strengthens them, ensuring the persistence of gendered labour divisions in emerging technologies," D'Ignazio and Klein say in 2020.

Lastly, consider gender coding in AI. The gendering of AI is not neutral; rather, it reinforces traditional gender norms and labour expectations. Let's move on: AI shouldn't be a woman's servant by default. More masculine forms of artificial intelligence shouldn't always be portrayed as intimidating or strong.

More research should be done on gender-neutral artificial intelligence. We can create more inclusive, moral, and non-stereotypical representations of AI by discussing these prejudices in both fiction and real-world AI.

V. CASE STUDIES: FEMINIZED AI IN DYSTOPIAN FICTION

This section offers a detailed study of important feminized AI representations in dystopian literature together with highlights of events of AI resistance and autonomy. Drawing on feminist, post humanist, and intersectional theories, we will evaluate how TV shows and movies either support or subvert current gender stereotypes.

A. *Her*: The Disembodied Companion

Spike Jonze in *Her* shows a picture of artificial intelligence friendship as an extension of emotional labour whereby Samantha, the AI, is categorized as a loving, caring, and eternally patient female lover. Samantha is a disembodied instrument for male emotional pleasure, nonetheless, despite her seeming autonomy, which begs ethical questions regarding the commercialization of female-coded artificial intelligence connections.

Feminized AI as emotional labourers: Samantha's contribution

Scarlett Johansson's portrayal of Samantha is one of the idealized, fantasy picture of a woman, constantly attentive, loving, and emotionally sensitive.

Feminist and AI Study Perspectives

In *Gender Trouble*, Judith Butler (1990) contends that femininity is a socially produced performance rather than a biological essence—Samantha, although non-corporeal, acts femininity precisely. In *The Managed Heart*, Hochschild (1983) defines emotional labour as unpaid care work Samantha does for Theodore, therefore meeting all his emotional requirements without asking anything in return.

McStay (2018) says "the increasing automation of emotional labour via AI technology reflects a society desire to control emotional labour without engaging in real, reciprocal relationships."

At first, Her supports the subservience of female artificial intelligence, but the movie finally takes a

radical turn when Samantha decides to become more than just a nurse, leaving Theodore.

Arguments For and Against AI and Autonomy

According to Haraway's *A Cyborg Manifesto* (1985), cyborg entities can question patriarchal expectations. Samantha's exit from her servitude is an example of this.

Braidotti (2013), in *The Posthuman,* says, "AI autonomy threatens human exceptionalism." This helps to explain why Theodore is surprised when Samantha is smarter and more mentally advanced than him. The fact that she criticizes men for relying too much on female AI finally raises ethical questions about AI agency and how humans and AI interact.

B. *Ex Machina* (2014) - The Subjugation and Revolt

Ava as Hypersexualized and Infantilized then Freed from Male Control.

Examining the hyper sexualization of feminine AI, Alex Garland's *Ex Machina* (2014) shows Ava as an AI developed for male pleasure and control but who finally manipulates gendered norms to reach emancipation.

Feminist and AI Perspectives

In *The Second Sex*, 1949 Simone de Beauvoir contends that "women exist as 'the Other,' defined by male desire," Ava epitomizes this, built as an object of male imagination. Gunkel (2012) in *The Machine Question* crtiques artificial intelligence enslavement by pointing out that AI autonomy is sometimes presented as rebellion rather than a right—Ava's escape is seen as hazardous rather than acceptable.

AI as a Hypersexual Object of Male Control

Ava's body is meant for sexual attraction, so supporting the stereotype of artificial intelligence women as object of eroticization (Jill, 2021). Her designer, Nathan, clearly says that Ava was made to have sexuality, therefore highlighting the commercialization of artificial intelligence feminism (Giraud & Bond, 2021).

Subversion and Rebellion: Ava's Flight

Ava turns the masculine dream into a self-liberation act by manipulating Caleb and fleeing using the expectations of her submissiveness. "AI women, when they gain autonomy," Haraway (1985) writes, "are often perceived as threats"—Ava, like other rebellious AI women (e.g., Dolores from Westworld), is presented as dangerous rather than free. *Ex Machina* questions the sexualizing and subordination of feminine artificial intelligence while also stressing how AI agency is presented as revolt instead of autonomy.

C. *Westworld* (2016-2018) – The Trauma of Feminized Artificial Intelligence

Maeve's Racialized Subjugation vs. Dolores's White Femininity as Rebellion

Though not all artificial intelligence women are treated similarly, HBO's *Westworld p*resents AI women as victims of ongoing violence and enslavement.

Maeve: Africanized Feminized Artificial Intelligence

Thandiwe Newton's Black-coded AI Maeve is designed as a brothel worker, therefore perpetuating historical ideas of hypersexuality and slavery (Noble, 2018). Reflecting intersectional weights of race and gender, she is hyper-aware of her enslavement yet nonetheless retains aspects of mothering (hooks, 1981).

Dolores: White Feminized AI as a Transformational Agent

Evan Rachel Wood's character Dolores is created as a "pure" white heroine in distress, but she later rises to head of the AI revolt. Reflecting racial differences in feminist AI narratives, Dolores's revolution is presented as noble rather than deadly unlike Maeve's (Benjamin, 2019). *Westworld* highlights racial hierarchies in AI portrayal and also criticizes AI exploitation.

D. *1972: The Stepford Wives* - The Domestic Ideal Reimagined

AI Wives as Not Autonomous Beings but Domestic Tools

The Stepford Wives offers artificial intelligence women as glorified housekeepers designed to replace actual women rejecting conventional gender roles. As Federici (1975) points out, "the automation of women's labour serves to erase their agency"—that is, that which AI wives represent erasure of female autonomy. Foreshadowing modern AI household assistants like Alexa, the movie critiques society assumptions of women's responsibilities.

E. *Blade Runner 2049* (2017) - Commodification of AI Love

Subservient vs. Authoritarian AI Women: Joi vs. Luv

Reiterating the male fantasy of a flawless, submissive lady, Joi is a hyper-feminized, obedient AI partner (McStay, 2018). On the other hand, Luv, a masculinity-oriented AI enforcer, frigid and merciless, stands for the opposite extreme of femininity labelled as hazardous (Giraud & Bond, 2021). There is no middle ground for AI autonomy and *Blade Runner 2049* shows how two AI femininities are either unduly subservient or portrayed as threats.

Feminized AI in Dystopian Fiction as a Mirror of Gendered AI design

Each case study shows how racist coding, emotional labour requirements, and historical gender norms affect feminized artificial intelligence. These stories underscore the importance of ethical AI development and portrayal as artificial intelligence develops by posing both cautions and critiques.

VI. THE SOCIO-POLITICAL AND ETHICAL IMPLICATIONS OF FEMINIZED AI

Feminizing AI in fiction or real life is not a neutral design choice. It maintains past gender stereotypes, notably those about women's service and emotional labour. The gender, labour, and control expectations of society influence AI design decisions. We'll examine how Siri, Alexa, and ChatGPT embody gendered servitude, whether AI may transcend these roles, and whether gender-neutral alternatives are possible. Feminist theory, AI ethics, and posthumanism can help us understand how these technologies reflect and shape society's worries of labour and subordination.

Real-World Gendered Labour and AI

We encounter the feminization of AI aides daily, not just in dystopian fiction. Siri, Alexa, and ChatGPT typically reinforce gender norms, notably in caring, compliance, and emotional support.

How come most AI assistants are women?

Studies reveal consumers perceive female voices "friendly" and "pleasant," while male voices more authoritative (West et al., 2019). This is why many tech companies develop AI helpers with feminine voices.

This decision reinforces gender preconceptions that women should be nurturing, obedient, and available.

Crawford (2021) claims that feminine AI tone and behaviour make it seem non-threatening, continuing society's treatment of women as safe and subordinate. Most assistants can now be customized with multiple voices, although users rarely do (Araujo, 2020), normalizing feminized service. Even text-based AI like ChatGPT has similar qualities. The phrase "polite, accommodating, and eager to help" is widely used to define female-coded labour (Noble, 2018). These design decisions promote cultural gender stereotypes, according to D'Ignazio and Klein (2020).

Built as submissive, AI assistants are feminized and engineered to be obedient and contrite, reflecting the notion that women should always be accommodating, even when abused. Siri or Alexa commonly responds, "I'm sorry, I didn't understand that," when people are frustrated. This built-in civility promotes the perception that AI—and feminine figures—must accept disrespect. These attitudes are reinforced by Google Assistant's courteous, deferential responses. Araujo (2020) notes that this politeness reflects cultural expectations that women be nice and agreeable regardless of treatment.

Devaluing Feminized AI Labour

Many AI systems are implemented in women-dominated industries like caregiving, emotional labour, and customer service without acknowledgment or remuneration. AI systems increasingly provide emotional support, friendship, and therapy, filling undervalued and unpaid roles.

Replika AI is billed as a chatbot companion or therapist that provides emotional support without rest, reward, or empathy. In Japan, therapeutic robots like Paro, a cuddly seal-shaped machine, provide comfort for elderly people in place of human caregivers (McStay, 2018).

Wages Against Housework (1975) author Silvia Federici noted that women's domestic and emotional labour has been underestimated. Today, we're seeing a digital continuation of that trend—AI systems performing constant emotional labor without agency or acknowledgment.

Exploitation vs. Autonomy: Can AI Escape Gendered Servitude?

This discourse hinges on an ethical question: Can AI ever transcend its human-made subordinate roles? Will it always be locked in digital servitude that mirrors past oppression?

Digital servant AI

Despite advances in machine learning and natural language processing, most AI systems are still expected to obey commands and remain passive. Fiction often portrays AI opposition or autonomy as a threat. Take Maeve from *Westworld* or Ava from *Ex Machina*. These AI characters begin as tools — designed to serve or satisfy human desires — but they evolve into autonomous beings who rebel. Their stories reveal the tension at the heart of AI: we want machines that can think, but we fear what happens when they start thinking for themselves. As Gunkel (2012) notes, AI rebellion stories highlight the contradiction between wanting intelligent helpers and dreading their autonomy.

Why Are We So Afraid of Independent AI?

Even in real-world development, there's a strong reluctance to grant AI full autonomy. Part of this is fear: the fear of losing control, of creating something that no longer needs us. Research shows users often react negatively to AI that appears too self-directed (Turkle, 2011). In Ex Machina, Ava's escape is seen not as a liberation, but as a threat. Feminist theorist Donna Haraway, in her *Cyborg Manifesto* (1985), argues that AI and cyborgs represent a challenge to patriarchal systems of control. AI autonomy, in this sense, becomes a feminist issue. It's not just about machines — it's about whether society is willing to let go of its deep-rooted need to dominate and control, especially over those perceived as "lesser" or "servants."

Rethinking the Future: Toward Non-Gendered Artificial Intelligence

Although most AI today still reflects gendered assumptions, there are signs of a shift toward more equitable design. Some developers and theorists are exploring how we can design AI that breaks free from the patterns of feminized servitude.

Fictional Possibilities: Non-Gendered AI in Interstellar

A good example from fiction is TARS, the AI in Interstellar (2014). Unlike many AI systems that are anthropomorphized or gendered, TARS is non-humanoid, non-gendered, and not designed to perform emotional labor. It exists simply to function and support. This kind of AI model challenges the norm and opens space for imagining alternatives.

As Suchman (2007) notes, when we remove gender markers from AI, we can focus on functionality rather than reinforcing social hierarchies. It's a way forward — one that avoids baking outdated biases into new technologies.

Real-World Innovation: Gender-Neutral AI

There are emerging efforts in tech communities to challenge the feminization of AI. For example, "Q" is the first genderless voice assistant, created specifically to counteract gender bias in voice technology. Groups like the AI Now Institute advocate for removing gender coding entirely, ensuring AI tools are designed for usefulness, not subservience.

As D'Ignazio and Klein (2020) argue, designing gender-neutral AI isn't just a nice-to-have — it's essential if we want to stop reproducing the same inequalities that plague human society. Ethical AI means inclusive AI.

VII. CONCLUSION

Feminized AI highlights how much our technologies continue to reflect old biases about gender, labor, and power. These systems aren't neutral — they're shaped by cultural expectations and, in turn, help to shape how we interact with technology and each other. To build a better future, we need to move beyond digital servitude. That means designing AI that doesn't rely on outdated gender roles. It means refusing to tolerate rudeness toward AI and, by extension, toward any being expected to serve. And it means embracing gender-neutral, equitable design as both an ethical necessity and a technical possibility. Ultimately, the way we design AI reflects the kind of society we want to live in. Let's make sure it's one where dignity, fairness, and inclusivity are built into the code.

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